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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/598,777	06/16/2000	Steven H. McCown	00-022-MIS	5604

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EXAMINER

REAGAN, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3621

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/598,777

Applicant(s)

MCCOWN ET AL.

Examiner

James A. Reagan

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **Status of Claims**

1. This action is in response to the Appeal Brief filed on 15 September 2003.
2. Claims 1-40 have been examined.

### **Response to Arguments**

3. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 15 September 2003, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejection are set forth below.
4. To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:
  - (1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,
  - (2) request reinstatement of the appeal.
5. If reinstatement of the appeal is requested, such request must be accompanied by a supplemental appeal brief, but no new amendments, affidavits (37 CFR 1.130, 1.131 or 1.132) or other evidence are permitted. See 37 CFR 1.193(b)(2).

### **Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said

subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-14, 17-26, 28-33, and 36-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muftic, (US 5,850,442 A), in view of the Applicant's own admissions, and further in view of Rankl, (Smart Card Handbook (c) 1997).

**Examiner's Note:** The Examiner has pointed out particular references contained in the prior art of record within the body of this action for the convenience of the Applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply. Applicant, in preparing the response, should consider fully the entire reference as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

**Claim 1:**

Muftic, as shown, discloses the following limitations:

- *receiving, prior to the transaction, a secret master key from a third party, wherein the master key remains unchanged and is kept secret and is not altered after the transaction, the third party storing a copy of the master key (see at least Abstract, Summary of the Invention, Fig 16: "smart token/certificate", associated text);*
- *receiving a request for a digest from a requestor (see at least C2, L27-51: "message digest"; Fig 10: step 1030: "receive order form"; associated text);*
- *retrieving the master key (retrieving unique client information (see at least Fig 10: step 1060: "digitally sign order form"; Fig 10, steps 1040, 1060);*

- *the client information being associated with the master key (see at least Fig 10: step 1060);*
- *creating the digest by hashing the unique client information and the master key (see at least C2, L38-41);*
- *returning the digest and the unique client information to the requestor, wherein the digest and the unique client information will be used for transacting with a third party (see at least Fig 10: step 1060).*

Although Muftic does disclose hashing a message digest, Muftic does not specifically disclose a master key, hashing a master key with customer information, and the inherent transactional steps associated with a smart card transaction. Applicant, however, in at least page 19, lines 24-25, and on page 21, lines 1-4 discloses that the GetNextKey algorithm is well-known in the art, as well as other hashing algorithms. Applicant also states that the use of smart cards for transaction is also well-known, inherently disclosing supporting smart card infrastructure such as, for example, communication between the smart and associated translational computers. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Muftic with the Applicant's own admission because Applicant's admissions are considered well-known to those of ordinary skill in the smart card arts.

Muftic and Applicant do not specifically disclose that customer data contained within smart card memory is hashed with a specific key unique and known only to the smart card and the issuing authority. Rankl, however, in an analogous teaching clearly discloses hashing consumer data with the smart card unique key (see at least section 4.3 and Figure 4.23). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Muftic/Applicant with Rankl because using a secret key (master key) to hash data provides non-repudiation and a high level of security during the transaction.

In addition, However Muftic does disclose providing a token or certificate (i.e. "master key") assigned to a unique client account (see citations used in claims 1, 8, 11) and the authorization process performed at a credit card issuer or bank (Fig 13, associated text) using well-known methods for authenticating a client, merchant, and transaction to be authorized. Muftic also discloses that when using hashes, the method for determining if a message is authentic is by doing a similar hash and comparing the results (C2, L27-37). Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made that in order to perform a proper validation and authorization of a transaction, the authorizing entity must inherently perform a parallel hashing of merchant, client, transaction IDs, and matching master key, and then compare the resulting digest with the one received from a requestor, in order to determine whether the request may be authorized.

Moreover, Muftic clearly teaches that the way to authenticate a hashed message is by using the same components, doing a parallel hash, and comparing the results. Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to include these steps in the authentication of authorization requests, so that proper validation and authentication may be done.

**Claim 2:**

Muftic discloses all the limitations of claim 1. Muftic further discloses *the request further comprises unique requestor information and creating the digest further comprises hashing the unique requestor information* (see at least Fig 16: "seller's ID").

**Claims 3, 14, 25, 26, and 33:**

Muftic discloses all the limitations of claims 1, 13, 24, 32. Muftic does not specifically recite that *the request includes unique merchant information which is used to access the*

*master key*. However, Muftic teaches that merchants also need to have specific accounts with credit card issuers in order to obtain credit for the transactions they enter into with clients (Fig 16: steps 1610, 1620). It is also inherent in the art that all merchants wishing to participate in an electronic commerce system need to establish accounts in advance with banks, credit card issues, clearing houses, and the like. Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to ensure that a request for billing digest would include unique merchant information that would dictate which master key the client system will fetch (i.e. Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, etc.). This would be inherent in the system, in order to allow it to properly match account holders and financial institutions.

**Claim 5:**

Muftic discloses all the limitations of claim 1. Muftic further discloses *creating the digest by hashing is performed by a smart card* (see at least C4, L33-43; Fig 3, associated text).

**Claim 7:**

Muftic discloses all the limitations of claim 1. Muftic further discloses *the transaction is a credit card transaction, the third party is a credit card issuer and the requestor is a merchant, the requestor information includes information describing at least one of a merchant identifier which is specific to the credit card issuer, a transaction identifier which is specific to the credit card issuer and purchase information which is specific to a purchase initiated by the client* (see at least Fig 13, associated text).

**Claims 8, 11, 13, 20-24, 32, 39, and 40:**

Independent claims 8, 11, 13, 20-24, 32, 39, and 40 recite essentially the same limitations as independent claim 1, nearly identical in scope and intent, and are therefore rejected on the same grounds as clearly disclosed in the rejection of claim 1 above.

**Claim 12:**

Muftic discloses all the limitations of claim 11. Muftic further discloses *receiving a response from the credit card issuer* (see at least Fig 13, associated text).

**Claims 17, 28, and 36:**

Muftic discloses all the limitations of claims 13, 24, 32. Muftic further discloses *creating the digest by hashing is performed by a smart card* (see at least C4, L33-43; Fig 3, associated text).

**Claims 6, 10, 18, 29, and 37:**

Muftic discloses all the limitations of claims 1, 8, 13, 24, 32. Muftic further discloses that encryption will be used in his system (C7, L1-15). Muftic does not specifically recite *encrypting/decrypting the unique client information*. However it would be obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made that all unique client information (i.e. certificates, signatures) would need to be kept secure to prevent unauthorized access or capture. Therefore it would just be common sense to encrypt this client information before retrieving it and transmitting it to a vendor.

**Claims 19, 30, and 38:**

Muftic discloses all the limitations of claims 13, 24, 32. Muftic further discloses *the transaction is a credit card transaction, the third party is a credit card issuer and the requestor is a merchant, the requestor information includes information describing at least one of a merchant identifier which is specific to the credit card issuer, a transaction identifier which is specific to the credit card issuer and purchase information which is specific to a purchase initiated by the client* (see at least Fig 13, associated text).

**Claim 31:**



Muftic discloses all the limitations of claim 24. Muftic further discloses *using a biometric for enhanced security of his system* (see at least C16, L41-51).

8. Claims 4, 9, 15-16, 27, and 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Muftic/Applicant/Rankl in view of Nguyen et al., (US Patent 5,931,917).

**Claims 4, 9, 15-16, 27, and 34-35:**

Muftic/Applicant/Rankl discloses all the limitations of claims 1, 8, 13, 24, 32. Muftic/Applicant/Rankl does not specifically disclose *using reference numbers and checking to see if old references numbers have already been used when authorizing requests for transaction authorizations*. Nguyen, however, discloses the unique client information includes a reference number, the reference number being one of a plurality of reference numbers provided to the client by the third party (see at least C26, L19; C28, L17; C29, L57; C37, L25). It would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to add reference numbers to the client information as taught by Nguyen, in order to further be capable to prevent fraudulent transactions because each transaction authorized by the issuer may be assigned a new reference number, thereby preventing the authorization of multiple requests for the same transaction.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **James A. Reagan** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-9131**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at (703) 305-9768.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the **Receptionist** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900**. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair> . Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

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or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, 7<sup>th</sup> floor receptionist.

JAR

15 September 2004



**JAMES P. TRAMMELL**  
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